

MINUTES
of the
SANTA BARBARA METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

DATE: May 11, 2004

PLACE: 550 Olive Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

MEMBERS PRESENT: Directors Brian Fahnestock, Olivia Rodriguez, Lee Moldaver and Interim General Manager Sherrie Fisher

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chair John Britton, Director Dave Davis

OTHERS PRESENT: Steven Gersten, Melody Jorgensen, Missy Runnels (TCRC), Dena M. Munson, Rafaela Cornejo (Pueblo), Maria Pineda (Pueblo), Elena Lopez (Pueblo), Antonia Pineda (Pueblo), Browning Allen (SB City), Dan Secord (SB City), Petra Lowen (ILRC), Josh Molina (SB News Press), Jerry Estrada, Lynnette Coverly, David Damiano, Steve Maas, Rachel Grossman, and Jim Haggerty (MTD Staff)

1. **Call to Order**
Acting-Chair Olivia Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 9:25 a.m.
2. **Roll Call of the Board of Directors**
Acting-Chair Rodriguez noted that all Board members were present except Chair Britton and Director Davis.
3. **Report Regarding Posting of Agenda**
Board Clerk Jim Haggerty reported that the agenda for this meeting was posted at the MTD administrative headquarters and on the MTD Website last week and mailed to media of general circulation.
4. **Approval of Prior Minutes**
Acting-Chair Rodriguez announced the board was asked to waive the reading of, and approve the minutes of April 27, 2004. Director Moldaver moved to waive the reading of the minutes; Director Fahnestock seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
5. **Cash Report**
Director Lee Moldaver moved to accept the Cash report for April 20, through May 3, 2004. Director Fahnestock seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
6. **Public Comment**
Acting-Chair Rodriguez offer the opportunity for public comment on any item that is not on the agenda. No public comment.
7. **MTD Conflict of Interest Code Revisions (attachment – action may be taken)**
The General Manager asked for postponement of action until a full board could be present.
8. **Review of Proposed Fall Route and Schedule Changes prior to Public Meeting and May 11th Public Hearing (attachment – no action will be taken)**
The General Manger asked Steve Maas, Manager of Planning to explain the major changes for this fall. Mr. Maas once again reviewed the qualitative and quantitative methods of planning route and schedule changes: gathering information from the public, via passenger in-put days, passenger comment, and through public meetings. There was also in-put from employees, drivers, and transit center staff, route analysis of each route as compared to the system and as compared to previous year's performance. Service

evaluations analyzed each route in detail in terms of ridership and subsidy costs of the route to determine which routes warrant improvements or service cuts.

In response to input from the Board members and the public, staff now recommends: a) Line #9 begin earlier, to connect with 26x, b) retain the 19k, previously marked for elimination.

The proposed changes are anticipated to create small increase in ridership of about 3500 trips annually.

Director Fahnestock reiterated the result is a reduction of costs and an increase in the number of riders.

Staff recommendations continue to include: a) deletion of New Year's Day service due to low ridership;

b) Elimination of Line 10 mid-day service due to poor ridership during those hours.

Discussion ensued regarding service to the Westside Community Center for the Senior Lunch Program.

Two options were considered. Lines 3 and the Crosstown Shuttle both travel within 1 ½ to 2 blocks of the Westside Community Center. Mr. Maas explained most able-bodied riders are willing to walk up to ½ mile of a bus stop. For those Westside Center patrons not able to walk that far, Easy Lift Paratransit is available. Staff recommends no change to Line 3 or the Crosstown Shuttle.

Acting-Chair Rodriguez questioned Mr. Maas about Easy Lift's criteria for passengers not able to use MTD. Mr. Mass explained that the criterion includes inability to use MTD fixed-route service and that MTD and Easy Lift have an open relationship to discuss such criteria.

Ms. Grossman explained service enhancements and reductions in service. Improved passenger information at bus stops, new benches, and added trash receptacles are some of the enhancements. New buses are in service, 30 foot and 40 foot Gilligs, 100 percent of the new fleet have access for two wheelchairs and bicycle racks on all buses. Commencing Memorial Day weekend, there will be weekend service to Botanic Gardens. Line 22 weekday service will be altered to go to Orpet Park on 3 additional trips, bypassing the Museum of Natural History on those trips. There have been schedule enhancements to the Line 6 & 11 improving on-time performance, increased weekend service to Carpinteria, and adding one trip to the Line 3 weekdays. Lines 1W and 1E will change back to the Line 1 (Westside) and Line 2 (Eastside). On the Line 14 service, Staff proposes 4 short trips on Sunday.

Regarding Holidays, Staff recommends: Eliminate New Year's Day service, change Martin Luther King Jr. Day from regular service to Saturday service, reduce Day after Thanksgiving service from Saturday to Sunday, and change Christmas Eve from current regular service to Sunday service.

In addition, Line 3 Saturday service would be reduced by two morning trips. Lines 13x and 26 are proposed for elimination. Line 14x (express) would be dropped with current local trips to remain intact. General Manager Fisher requested Ms. Coverly to announce the plans for schedule printing and their availability to the public. Ms. Coverly stated historically the schedules go into effect the Tuesday following Labor Day and are available three weeks prior.

There was public comment on the above propositions; Harley Augustino and other representative of Pueblo were opposed to the elimination of service on New Year's Day. Petra Lowen raised concerns about the lack of service to the West Side Community Center and the high cost of Easy Lift compared to MTD. Another speaker stated a need to increase weekend service on the Line 20; Ms. Grossman addressed this by stating there is a proposal to increase Saturday service by 2 trips and Sunday service by 1 trip.

Director Moldaver explained his concerns for those working a national holiday, adding that with 6 months notice passengers could plan their schedule to get by without public transit. With regards to the West Side Community, he stated lunchtime service might be workable by providing two trips a day one prior to lunch and one following lunch.

Director Fahnestock noted his appreciation of the approach by staff to improve service with reduction of unproductive runs and improvements to high ridership needs. Providing New Year's Day service can be set as a future goal.

Acting-Chair Rodriguez echoed Director Fahnestock comments with exception to New Year's Day. Ms. Rodriguez would like to continue New Year's Day service if possible.

General Manager Fisher responded by stating New Year's Day service can be looked at as a modular piece of service but it is not in the proposed budget.

Acting-Chair Rodriguez again asked if the New Year's Day service could be extended one more time.

Mr. Maas noted the number of hours involved in New Year's Day service equaled 256.

Director Fahnestock moved to accept the service changes as proposed with the exception of New Year's Day and consideration of service to Westside Center. He asked these two items to be continued to the next Board meeting. Director Moldaver 2nd the motion. Motioned passed unanimously.

9. Renewal of Property Insurance

The Board will be asked to accept Staff recommendation for renewal of Property Insurance (Attachment-action may be taken)

General Manager Fisher said the only proposal for property insurance received was from our current carrier. The only change staff recommended from current coverage is to self-insure everything at Terminal Two except the building and property within the building. Therefore the canopy and bus wash would not be insured. This would bring a savings and reduce the quote to \$14,554. Director Fahnestock questioned if we were covered by any catastrophic insurance. Ms Fisher responded, no. Director Fahnestock moved to approve the insurance renewal; Director Moldaver 2nd. The motion passed unanimously.

10. General Manager's Report/Update (attachment-no action will be taken)

Director Moldaver recognized that Director Rodriguez had a time constraint, and thanked her for making the effort to be present at the beginning portion of the meeting, and she then departed.

General Manager requested Mr. Damiano to explain the Downtown Organization's support of the DWE.

Mr. Damiano said the Downtown Organization Transportation and Public Works Committee, the DO executive committee agreed with some contingencies but the full D.O. Board voted unanimously in favor.

Ms. Fisher confirmed with Mr. Browning Allen that this would proceed to Transportation and Circulation Committee of the City of Santa Barbara, this week. This will be brought back to the MTD Board for the May 25th Board Meeting. Director Fahnestock asked if the City was close to signing a DWE contract; Ms. Fisher confirmed the contract has been signed.

Ms. Fisher reminded the board that the TC's 30th Birthday will be celebrated Friday. A discussion was held regarding TC redevelopment. The General Manager recognized Mr. Damiano's efforts to get the TC remodel to the top of the redevelopment agencies list of projects.

Director Fahnestock questioned Ms. Fisher about the "Conflict of Interest" regarding Board members use of a 'free' bus pass, unless an evaluation of the system is being performed while riding. Ms. Fisher confirmed that our attorney had looked into the conflict of interest question and confirmed the previous statement.

Director Fahnestock not only recognized the Transit Center 30th anniversary, but also the fact that Ms. Fisher was about to celebrate her 30th anniversary with MTD May 13, 2004.

Director Moldaver went into preliminary discussion regarding service to Goleta. The City of Goleta may find it difficult to support new service for Fall 2005 in their transportation budget, and the local match for capital money. Ms. Fisher went on to explain the County is in a similar situation. Director Fahnestock then asked for further clarification regarding South Coast Transit Priorities. Ms. Fisher said the City of SB is currently considering Mesa service under the SCTP plan. MTD cannot return to SBCAG until the City of Santa Barbara, City of Goleta, and Santa Barbara County have all come to an agreement. Director Moldaver pointed out that all parties involved are waiting to see what happens once the State Budget is produced. Because of the condition of the State economy not all of our partners have been able to fully commit at this time, but it's not really a question of the service proposed it's identifying the funds in this recession year.

Director Fahnestock asked a question about the approval period? Ms. Fisher said she expected a decision by the end of June 2004. Mr. Fahnestock noted that sometime in July we should have given SBCAG all the information they need to make a decision. Ms. Fisher said SBCAG has said once they get the information it would a quick turnaround to take it to their board. Director Fahnestock said, June a decision, July a presentation to the staff and August a board meeting.

Director Fahnestock had some question about our unused advertising space, and using as self-promotion regarding our "clean fleet". Ms. Coverly responded by saying this idea is in the works and has gone from a small decal to a much larger space.

13. Other Business and Committee Reports

Directors Fahnestock and Rodriguez met with Sherrie Fisher and Jerry Estrada regarding negotiations and have nothing to report. Director Moldaver pointed out that he, Ms. Fisher and Jim Haggerty had attended a seminar on public procedure, Brown Act, and Conflict of Interest at the County Building. Director Moldaver asked if a committee meeting regarding the Calle Real property is scheduled soon. Ms. Fisher said we expect to be doing that soon and bring it to the full board.

14. Adjournment

Director Moldaver moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Director Fahnestock, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:14 AM.